

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. By this amendment claims 5 and 14 are amended, as is Figure 2 of the drawings with the addition of identification numeral 38. Paragraphs 0020 and 0022 of the specification also have been amended. Claims 4-6, 8-10, and 16 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's objections to the specification and claim 14 have been corrected. Similarly, Figure 2 has been corrected.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and has asserted that the specification at paragraph 0022 refers to "ribbon 44 radially separated from lance or detent 22" and has asserted that this feature is not shown in Figure 3, and that therefore the feature from claim 5 "integral ribbon separated from detent" and in claims 12 and 14, "plural detents", must be shown or canceled from the claims. The Examiner states that, "In fig 3 the recited separation is not seen" and further that "none of the figs shows the use of plural detents." Applicant respectfully responds that the Examiner is in error.

Respecting Figure 3, ribbon 44 is radially separated from lance or detent 22 except when a power plug 34 has been inserted in the power point 10. Figure 3 shows power plug 34 inserted into a power point, and ribbon 44 is thus abutting detent 22. It is inherent in Applicant's invention that there must radial clearance between 44 and 22 to allow insertion of power plug 34. Nevertheless, as a result of the Examiner's objection, paragraph 0022 of the specification and claim 5 have both been amended to make clear that radial separation exists between ribbon 44 and lance or detent 22 whenever a power plug is not inserted into the power point. As a result, these claim and specification objections have been overcome.

Regarding the use of the term "plural detents" in claims 12 and 13, the Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 1A of Applicant's specification wherein plural detents 22 are shown.

In sum, each of the claim objections affecting claims 5, 12, and 14, are believed to have been met and overcome, and as a result, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 5, 12, and 14 be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

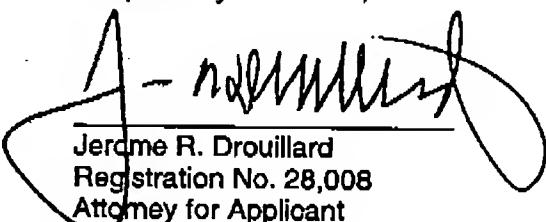
Claims 1-3, 7, 11, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by prior art illustrated in Figure 2. The Examiner's rejection on this basis is in error, because Figure 2 clearly shows a detent 22 which has no support whatsoever offered by the outer shell of the lighter. As described in Applicant's specification, prior art detents fail as

shown in the configuration of Figure 2 and the Examiner's rejection cannot be based upon §102 and Figure 2. This rejection is clearly unsupportable because Figure 2 shows a prior art device prone to the failure which Applicant's invention is intended to remedy. As a result, each of claims 1-3, 7, 11, 13, and 15 should be passed to issue over the Examiner's rejection. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art illustrated in Figure 2 in view of *Kline* (2,310,029). The Examiner cites *Kline* for the sole proposition that diametrically opposed detents are in the prior art. However, as noted above, each of claims 12 and 14 contain the limitations found in claim 1, and as a result, each of these claims is allowable over the admitted prior art and *Kline*, whether taken singly, or in combination with each other, because neither the admitted prior art nor *Kline* teach a supported latching system as shown and claimed by Applicant. As a result, claims 12 and 14, too, are allowable over the Examiner's rejection and should be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,



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